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REF: 44D-ER

NOV 29 1985

Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli  
Member, United States House of  
Representatives  
Federal Building  
600 Federal Place  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Dear Mr. Mazzoli:

This is in response to your letter of November 5, 1985, regarding Mr. Kenneth Welsh's concern for possible health dangers posed by the Lee's Lane Landfill in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently completed a remedial investigation and the development of a feasibility study for the Lee's Lane Landfill in Louisville. We presented the findings of these documents to the residents of Riverside Gardens and others at a public meeting in Riverside Gardens on October 15, 1985.

Shortly before this meeting, EPA was apprised for the first time of the strong desire of the residents of Riverside Gardens to be relocated. We agreed to, and performed, testing of the air inside several homes in the area upon notification that the residents were experiencing some odor problems. This testing indicated that the chemicals and concentrations existing within these homes, at that time, did not present any imminent hazard to the health and welfare of the residents. This information was transmitted to the residents at the public meeting by a representative of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

At the meeting, the public repeatedly expressed their concern with the quality of the air which they breathe, and EPA, CDC and Jefferson County committed to perform a more extensive ambient air monitoring study.

The design of this study is underway and will be implemented as soon as possible. When data has been collected and analyzed, residents will be informed of the results. The original plans for the methane collection system, which was installed by Jefferson County about 1980, did call for the gas to be burned. However, during construction by the County, a decision was made to do away with that feature, and as a result, the methane which is generated in the landfill is collected and vented to the atmosphere. Ambient air monitoring during investigation did not indicate any danger to the workers or the residents. We are concerned with the barrels which Mr. Welsh mentioned, and the alternatives currently under

000783

consideration for remediating the landfill will address these barrels. No decision on the method for resolving the problems at Lee's Lane will be made until the results of the air study have been reviewed and consideration included in the decision-making process.

We will continue to work closely with Jefferson County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky to keep the concerned public informed and to take all steps necessary to resolve the contamination that is proven to exist at Lee's Lane.

If I may be of any further assistance, please call on me.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Jack E. Ravan  
Regional Administrator  
Jack E. Ravan  
Regional Administrator